

THE ANGUISH OF VIETNAM'S CHILDREN



CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE-

For more than a decade the Vietnamese people have suffered incredibly as the contending forces unleashed increasingly lethal modern weapons. Compounding the prolonged tragedy has been the plight of Vietnam's children who were literally caught in the middle. Millions were orphaned and made homeless by the fighting. Large numbers were wounded. But the most heart-rending victims of the long struggle are those wounded by the bombs, shells and rockets that still engulfed them. They are the innocent victims of this - the longest war in American history.

the children of Vietnam

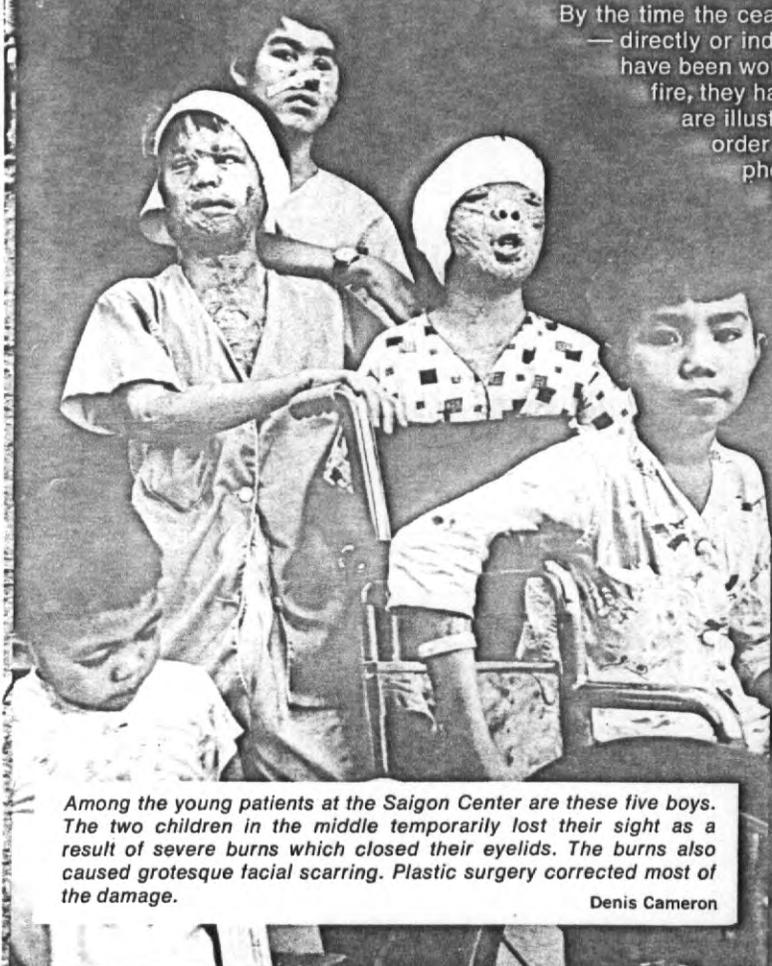


Directly or
Indirectly-

THE WAR HAS CRIPPLED OR MAIMED

By the time the cease-fire was signed in early 1973, more than 100,000 children had been — directly or indirectly — crippled or maimed by the savage fighting. Hundreds more have been wounded each month since the renewed hostilities. Caught in the cross-fire, they have sustained almost indescribably crippling wounds. On these pages are illustrated some examples, although we have omitted the most horrible in order to spare the sensibilities of our fellow Americans. Each child whose photo is shown here was treated by CMRI's hospital in Saigon. Complex surgery was performed to correct the deformities caused by the war wounds. Where necessary, skin grafts and reconstructive surgery literally rebuilt the tiny, shattered bodies, enabling the young war victims to return to society as whole human beings.

Vietnam's total pool of doctors numbers about 1,500, of which about 500 treat Vietnam's 16 million civilians. Few of these doctors have the skills needed to perform plastic or reconstructive surgery. Almost 95,000 Vietnamese children require medical services; a large number of them are wait-listed for treatment at our Saigon Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.



Among the young patients at the Saigon Center are these five boys. The two children in the middle temporarily lost their sight as a result of severe burns which closed their eyelids. The burns also caused grotesque facial scarring. Plastic surgery corrected most of the damage.

Denis Cameron



Thomas R. Miller

Four Vietnamese boys at CMRI's Saigon hospital being treated for war wounds or burns resulting in severe contractures.

MORE THAN 100,000 CHILDREN



A CMRI nurse in Saigon posts the latest developments on the medical chart of this child who suffered hand and face injuries from an explosion which forced tiny particles of debris beneath the skin. The child may have stepped on a land mine or suffered a grenade wound.

The most expensive procedure performed by the Center is surgery and treatment of serious burns. The average burns surgery costs \$1,000. Literally thousands of burn victims are as yet untreated, causing incredible pain and grotesque malformation. CMRI seeks to raise \$600,000 to construct a special burns treatment facility — the first in Vietnam's history — atop its present hospital. This will enable the Center to deal with acute, fresh burns which require isolation from possible infection and intensive care for prolonged periods. A second goal is the establishment of satellite clinics in the provinces to provide immediate care for the rural population — Vietnam's majority — and to make plastic and reconstructive surgery available to every child who needs it.



STAGE 1



STAGE 2

This Vietnamese child received reconstructive surgery to correct a Noma, a gangrenous ulceration of the face resulting in part from malnutrition. Photo at far left shows first stage of surgery. Second photo shows tube pedicle completed with skin graft in place. This surgical procedure often requires a third stage known as "defatting" procedure.

Typical CMRI cases at Saigon Center. (Top) Pigmented Hairy Nevus, a congenital birth defect. (Middle) Unattended burn contracture of face, neck and chest, requiring radical plastic surgery and extensive physical therapy. (Bottom) Facial Noma which, if not attended, causes rapid tissue destruction. All three were repairable through sophisticated plastic surgery and physical therapy.

PLEASE HELP

VIETNAM'S WOUNDED CHILDREN

Give to....

Children's Medical Relief International



230 EAST 48th STREET/NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
TEL. 212 751-1111

What your tax deductible contribution will do . . .

\$5.00 will enable us to transport five children from a hamlet to the hospital and back again.

\$10.00 will pay for blood transfusions for five badly burned children.

\$25.00 will provide ten days of nursing care for a critically injured child.

\$50.00 will pay for surgery and physical therapy to enable a child to use his hand again.

\$100.00 will pay for surgery and physical therapy to enable a child to walk again.

\$500.00 will rebuild a child's face.

\$1,000.00 will save the life of a critically burned child.

Children's Medical Relief International, Inc. is registered with the State Department's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid.



WARNING: DO NOT TURN PAGE WITHOUT READING. THE INSIDE PAGES CONTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXTREMELY DISFIGURED CHILDREN. THEY SHOULD NOT BE SEEN BY CHILDREN OR HIGHLY SENSITIVE ADULTS.

Beyond the Horror - the Saigon Hospital

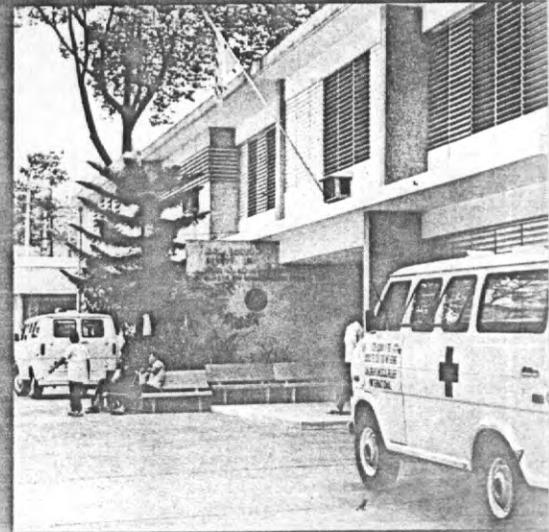
After more than a year of on-the-spot studies, Children's Medical Relief International (CMRI) established the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Saigon in 1968. The next year, construction was completed for CMRI's new teaching hospital, where Vietnamese doctors, nurses and medical technicians have been learning the techniques of plastic and reconstructive surgery under the direction of the world-renowned plastic surgeon, Dr. Arthur J. Barsky, and other foreign surgeons from 15 countries.

Since 1968, the Center has treated more than 6,000 seriously maimed or wounded young war victims and children gravely disfigured by disease, accidents or congenital malformations. At the same time, CMRI has been gradually entering the pool of Vietnamese medical skills, thereby speeding the process of restoring the wounded and disfigured children through surgery. One of CMRI's cardinal principles is to slowly get itself out of business in Vietnam by training Vietnamese to do the job themselves. We estimate that, with the best of luck and adequate resources, it will take a decade to wipe out the backlog of cases requiring sophisticated surgery.

CMRI recently began construction of a new 125,000 reception/convalescent unit to double the hospital. It is being built entirely with private donations. Since the hospital consists of only 60 beds, the expanded reception and convalescent unit will also temporarily house beds for educational purposes, increasing its capacity several fold and reducing the operating costs of the surgical unit.

As the only hospital of its kind in Vietnam, Children's Center, like an orphan, still is a bit of a beggar child, pleading efficiency, providing excellent care for roughly 16¢ a day per patient - about one-fourth of the U.S. cost.

Because of a bad economy and the mortality of the Vietnamese war, it has been difficult to raise money to help with the reconstruction of the war-damaged area. We want to help children during the long war. Please give as much as you can to CMRI. If money helps to save a life.



Exterior of CMRI's Saigon Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (1978), which was built in large measure with American AID funds. Below is a typical ward of the Center's Surgical Unit.

